

Carnival Schedule

ORANJESTAD – Carnival is in full-swing in Aruba for the next two weeks, which will culminate with a weekend of back-to-back parades on the streets! Do not miss the most important upcoming events.

Schedule di Carnaval

Wednesday 07 February:

Lighting Parade in San Nicolas starting at 8pm.

Friday 09 February:

School Parade in Oranjestad starting 10am;
School Parade in San Nicolas starting 10am.

Saturday 10 February:

Grand Parade in San Nicolas starting at 11am.

Sunday 11 February:

Grand Parade in Oranjestad starting at 10am;
Burning of the Momo at Aruba Harbour Arena starting at 7pm.

Monday 12 February:

Carnival Monday.

A QUICK HISTORY OF THE JOUVERT MORNING PARADE

Page 7



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Authorities target two Texas firms in probe of AI-generated robocalls before New Hampshire's primary



New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella describes the investigation into robocalls that used artificial intelligence to mimic President Joe Biden's voice and discourage people from voting in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, during a news conference in Concord, N.H., on Monday, Feb. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

By **HOLLY RAMER** and **ALI SWENSON**

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) —

Authorities issued cease-and-desist orders Tuesday against two Texas companies they believe were

connected to robocalls that used artificial intelligence to mimic President Joe Biden's voice and discourage people from voting in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary last month.

New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella said investigators have identified the source of the calls as Life Corporation and said they were transmitted by a company called Lingo Telecom. New Hampshire issued cease-and-desist orders and subpoenas to both companies, while the Federal Communications Commission issued a cease-and-desist letter to the telecommunications company, Formella said. In



President Joe Biden speaks in the East Room, Jan. 19, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

a statement, the FCC said it was trying to stop "behavior that violates voter suppression laws."

During a news conference to discuss the investigation, Formella described the calls as the clearest and possibly first known attempt to use AI to interfere with an election in the U.S. He noted that the calls went well beyond the political filers that have landed in voters' mailboxes during past elections.

"Calls using AI with something as deceptive as trying to clone the voice of the president of the United States, we haven't seen something like that before so close to an election with such a blatant attempt to mislead voters," Formella said. "We don't want it to be the first of many. We want this to be an example for us to point to, but also an enforcement example for anyone out there who would consider doing this." No one answered the door at the offices of Life Corporation, in a strip mall in Arlington, Texas, on Tuesday afternoon. Phone messages and emails left for Life Corporation's owner, Walter Monk, were not returned.

Lingo Telecom said in an emailed statement that it "acted immediately" to help the task force of state attorneys general with their investigation.

"On the same day we were contacted by the Task Force, we quickly identified and suspended the involved account, and will continue to cooperate with federal and state investigators to bring a resolution to this matter," the statement read. "Lingo remains committed to upholding the highest standards of customer care in compliance with all its regulatory obligations."

The recorded message was sent to between 5,000 and 25,000 voters two days before the Jan. 23 primary. It used a voice similar to Biden's, employed his often-used phrase, "What a bunch of malarkey" and falsely suggested that voting in the primary would preclude voters from casting a ballot in November's general election.

Biden won the Democratic primary as a write-in candidate after he kept his name off the ballot in deference to South Carolina's new lead-off position for the Democratic primaries. □

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The Census Bureau halts changing how it asks about disabilities following a backlash

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

The U.S. Census Bureau on Tuesday halted plans to change how it asks people about disabilities after facing a growing backlash.

Advocates for disabled people had argued that proposed changes to disability questions on the bureau's American Community Survey would artificially reduce their numbers by more than 40%, limiting the ability of some to get vital resources for housing, schools or program benefits. They also argued that they weren't properly consulted on such a major overhaul.

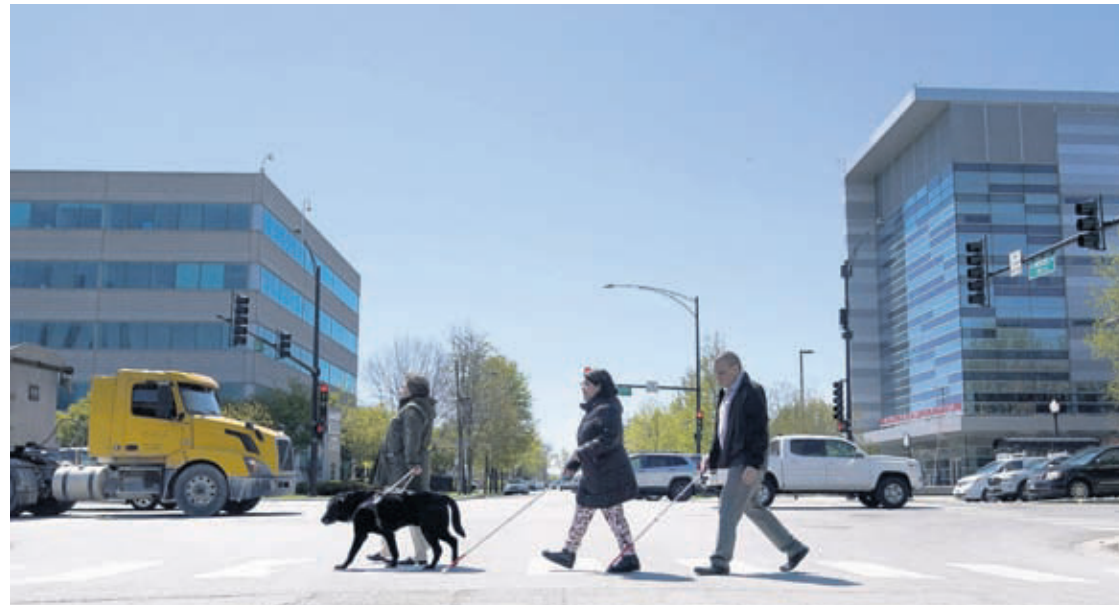
"Good news. Good news. Good news," said Scott Landes, an associate professor of sociology at Syracuse University, who is visually impaired.

"They got the message that we need to engage." The bureau plans to meet with advocates in the disability community and determine what changes to the questions are needed to better capture the range of disabilities while keeping the current questions about disability on the 2025 American Community Survey, said Census Bureau Director Robert Santos.

"We will continue our work with stakeholders and the public to better understand data needs on disability and assess which, if any, revisions are needed across the federal statistical system to better address those needs," Santos said in a blog post.

The American Community Survey is the most comprehensive survey of American life, covering commuting times, internet access, family life, income, education levels, disabilities and military service, among other topics.

The existing questions ask respondents to answer "yes" or "no" if they have difficulty or "serious difficulty" seeing, even with glasses, or are blind; hearing, or are deaf; concentrating,



Maureen Reid, left, and her guide dog, Gaston, cross the intersection of Wood Street and Roosevelt Avenue with Sandy Murillo, center, and Geovanni Bahena, relying on an audible signal for the blind, on April 26, 2023, in Chicago.

Associated Press

remembering or making decisions because of a physical, mental or emotional condition; walking or climbing stairs; dressing or bathing; or performing everyday tasks because of a physical, mental or emotional condition. If the answer is "yes," they are counted as having a disability.

Under the proposed changes, which follow international standards, respondents would be allowed to answer most of the same questions with four choices: "no difficulty," "some difficulty," "a lot of difficulty" and "cannot do at all."

A person would be counted as disabled if they answered "cannot do at all" or "a lot of difficulty" for any task or function. The changes also would have added a query on whether respondents have trouble communicating.

Supporters of the proposed changes said the revisions would have provided more nuanced data and given officials better details about disabilities that can inform how services or resources are provided.

In a test run, the percentage of respondents who were defined as having a disability went from 13.9% using the current questions to 8.1% under the pro-

posed changes. When the definition was expanded to also include "some difficulty," it grew to 31.7%.

The proposed changes to the disability questions were among several tweaks to the American Community Survey that the Census Bureau was planning to submit this year for approval to the Office of Management and Budget. As part of that process, the Census Bureau solicited public feedback and got more than 12,000 responses, with the majority expressing concerns about changes to the disability questions. □

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Los Angeles records nearly 400 mudslides during storm that has drenched Southern California

By JOHN ANTCHAK and JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of the wettest storms in Southern California history unleashed nearly 400 mudslides in the Los Angeles area after dumping more than half the amount of rainfall the city typically gets in a season in just two days, and officials warned Tuesday that the threat was not over yet.

The storm continued to pose new hazards, with the National Weather Service issuing a rare tornado warning for San Diego County. The warning was cancelled shortly after it was issued, with forecasters explaining that the storm no longer appeared capable of producing a twister even if it briefly turned many San Diego streets into rivers.

Officials expressed relief that the storm hadn't yet killed anyone or caused a major catastrophe in Los Angeles despite its size and intensity, though three people were killed in Northern California after the storm came ashore over the weekend with strong winds that toppled trees.

Another death was reported Tuesday by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which said someone attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border was swept up in the flood-swollen Tijuana River channel. A San Diego lifeguard raft



An SUV sits buried by a mudslide, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, in the Beverly Crest area of Los Angeles. Associated Press

was unable to reach the person before they died, the agency said.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass thanked residents for heeding calls to stay off the city's roads, and she urged people to continue doing so through the end of Tuesday, when the rain was expected to stop.

"Los Angeles can handle very big challenges. And if we stick together, we will come out so far ahead," she said.

The slow-moving storm that blew into the city on Sunday and then parked itself could still produce fierce downpours of up to an inch (roughly 2.5 centimeters) of rain in an hour, the weath-

er service said. That could be particularly precarious since the soil is already saturated after back-to-back atmospheric rivers walloped California in less than a week.

Crews have responded to 383 mudslides, and seven buildings have been deemed uninhabitable, officials said. Another 10 buildings were yellow-tagged, meaning residents could go back to get their belongings but could not stay there because of the damage.

Bass said the city does not yet have the total number of homes that were damaged by the storm and noted the city's emergency

shelters were full.

Dion Peronneau was trying to get her artwork and books out of her home, which was smashed into by a mudslide.

Despite the damage, she said she was grateful that no one was hurt when the mud knocked her sliding glass doors off their frame and came pouring into her home, where she's lived for 25 years.

"This has truly been a historic storm for Los Angeles," Ariel Cohen, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Los Angeles-area bureau told reporters, noting that the city had just recorded its third-wettest two-day stretch since re-

cordkeeping began in the 1870s.

Between six and 12 inches of rain has fallen over the city and saturated the ground, which can increase the risk of landslides long after a storm passes, officials said. Authorities also reported several spills of raw sewage into the Pacific and closed affected Los Angeles area beaches. Crews rescued people from swift-moving water in various parts of Southern California, including 16 people and five cats in Los Angeles County alone, authorities said. About an hour's drive east of Los Angeles, two homeless people were rescued Monday after spending the night on a small island in the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino, and three others were helped after they climbed into a tree above raging floodwaters that submerged their vehicle.

Near the Hollywood Hills dotted with multimillion-dollar homes, floodwaters carried mud, rocks and household objects downhill through Studio City, officials said. Sixteen people were evacuated and several homes were severely damaged.

Downtown Los Angeles received nearly 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain by Monday night, which was nearly half the yearly average of 14.25 inches (36 centimeters). □



A large number of law enforcement swarmed a hostage situation at the Bank of America building at Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers, Fla. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

A SWAT team sniper killed a bank hostage-taker armed with a knife, sheriff says

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — A deputy shot and killed a man Tuesday after he took people hostage and claimed to have a bomb at a Florida bank, authorities said.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a Bank of America branch in Fort Myers shortly before noon, Sheriff Carmine Marceno said during a news conference Tuesday afternoon. Officials

deployed a robodog, the SWAT team, electronic surveillance and drones.

As deputies entered the bank, dozens of people ran out, Marceno said. A man armed with a knife still had two hostages and claimed to have a bomb, the sheriff said. Negotiators were called to talk with the man, but at some point, the man put a hostage in a headlock and held a knife to her

throat, Marceno said. That's when a SWAT sniper fatally shot the man, he said.

No injuries were reported to any hostages or deputies. Officials didn't immediately identify the man who was killed or say whether he actually had a bomb.

The deputy who killed the man was placed on administrative leave, pending an investigation, which is normal department policy. □

EU scraps pesticide proposal in another concession to protesting farmers

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive arm shelved an anti-pesticide proposal Tuesday in yet another concession to farmers after weeks of protests that blocked many capitals and economic lifelines across the 27-nation bloc.

Although the proposal had languished in EU institutions for the past two years, the move by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was the latest indication that the bloc is willing to sacrifice environmental priorities to keep the farming community on its side. Despite concessions, protests continued from the Netherlands to Spain and Bulgaria.

Farmers have insisted that measures like the one on pesticides would increase bureaucratic burdens and keep them behind laptops instead of farming, adding to the price gap between their products and cheap imports produced by foreign farmers without similar burdens. The pesticide



Farmers make barricades after blocking a highway during a protest near Mollerussa, northeast Spain, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

"proposal has become a symbol of polarization," von der Leyen told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. "To move forward, more dialogue and a different approach is needed."

She acknowledged that the proposals had been made over the heads of

farmers. "Farmers need a worthwhile business case for nature-enhancing measures. Perhaps we have not made that case convincingly," von der Leyen said. It is unclear when new proposals will be drafted. EU parliamentary elections are set for June, and the plight of farmers has become a

focal point of campaigning, even pushing climate issues aside over the past weeks.

Under its much-hyped European Green Deal, the EU has targeted a 50% cut in the overall use of pesticides and other hazardous substances by 2030. The proposal was criticized both

by environmentalists who claimed it would be insufficient to reach sustainability targets, and by agriculture groups who insisted it would be unworkable and drive farmers out of business.

The decision to shelve the proposal on pesticides was the EU's latest act of political self-retribution in reaction to protests that have affected the daily lives of tens of millions of EU citizens and cost businesses tens of millions of euros due to transportation delays.

Many politicians, especially on the right and its fringes, applauded the impact of the protests.

"Long live the farmers, whose tractors are forcing Europe to take back the nonsense imposed by multinationals and the left," said Italy's right-wing transport minister, Matteo Salvini.

Last week, von der Leyen announced plans to shield farmers from cheaper products from wartime Ukraine and to allow farmers to use some land they had been required to keep fallow for environmental reasons. □

Colombia extends cease-fire with National Liberation Army as ELN rebels promise to stop kidnappings

By **MANUEL RUEDA**
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government and the nation's largest remaining guerrilla group have reached a last-minute deal to extend a cease-fire that began last year by six months, with ELN rebels also promising that they will stop kidnapping civilians for ransom.

The truce was set to expire on Tuesday. But in a brief statement issued just minutes before midnight, both sides said that they have extended the cease-fire for 180 days.

The statement says the National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish acronym ELN, will "temporarily and unilaterally suspend

economic detentions" in order to contribute to the cease-fire.

Government officials said they were pleased with the new terms of the cease-fire.



Colombian government representative Vera Grabe, left, and Colombian commander of the National Liberation Army guerrilla group (ELN) Pablo Beltran exchange their signed ceasefire extension agreement in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024. Behind are Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, left, and an unidentified Cuban official.

Associated Press

"Many of the peace deals that have been signed in this country have had little impact on the ground," Otty Patiño, Colombia's peace commissioner, told local radio station Blu. "It is very important to work on territorial peace."

Colombia's government and the National Liberation Army have been holding peace talks since late 2022 as President Gustavo Petro tries to pacify several armed groups that weren't part of a 2016 peace deal between the government and the nation's main rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

A cease-fire between the government and ELN started in August, and has re-

duced fighting between both sides. But during the truce, the rebels also have been recruiting teenagers, and financing their operations through extortion and kidnappings, leading to complaints that the cease-fire hasn't done enough to improve security for civilians in rural areas.

In October, the cease-fire almost broke down when an ELN detachment in northern Colombia kidnapped the parents of Luis Díaz, one of the nation's most beloved soccer players.

Díaz's mother was quickly rescued by police, while his father was released 12 days later following numerous protests and petitions. □

A computer scientist says he's the mystery creator of bitcoin

By **BRIAN MELLEY**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — One of the enduring mysteries of the cryptocurrency industry took center stage Tuesday in a London court where a trial could finally settle the debate over the identity of bitcoin's founder.

Australian computer scientist Craig Wright entered the witness box at the High Court and testified he was the man behind "Satoshi Nakamoto," the pseudonym that has masked the identity of the creator of bitcoin.

Wright has long asserted that he is Nakamoto. A nonprofit group of technology and crypto companies is trying to prove he's not. The trial started on Monday and is expected to last a month, before a judge rules at a later date.

"Wright's claim to be Satoshi is a lie, founded on an elaborate false narrative backed by forgery of documents on an industrial scale," attorney Jonathan Hough said on behalf of the Crypto Open Patent Alliance (COPA) at the outset of trial. "As his false documents and inconsistencies have been exposed, he has resorted to further forgery and ever more implausible excuses."



Dr Craig Wright arrives at the Rolls Building for a hearing over the identity of the creator of Bitcoin, in London, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

At stake is not just bragging rights to the creation, but control of the intellectual property rights.

Wright has used his claim as bitcoin's inventor to file litigation to drive developers away from further developing the open-source technology, the alliance claims in their lawsuit. The ruling will affect three pending lawsuits that Wright has filed based on his claim to having the intellectual property rights to bitcoin.

"Wright has threatened to

bankrupt developers, sent notices of his intent to sue, and has, in fact, engaged in scorched earth litigation against these volunteers, all premised on the baseless assertion that he is the founder of bitcoin," the alliance said Monday in a statement.

The murky origins of bitcoin date to the height of the financial crisis in 2008. A paper authored by a person or group using the Nakamoto pen name explained how digital currency could

be sent around the world anonymously, without banks or national currencies. Nakamoto seemed to vanish three years later.

Speculation on the true identity swirled for years and the names of several candidates had emerged when Wright first surfaced to claim the identity in 2016 only to quickly return to the shadows, saying he didn't "have the courage" to provide more proof.

Wright asserted in court Tuesday that he created

the technology and the cryptic identity behind it, which he said was based on his admiration for Japanese culture. He said the name was a combination of the surname of philosopher Tominaga Nakamoto and Satoshi David, a figure in a book about American tycoon J.P. Morgan, and a Pokemon character.

He said he didn't want the creator to be anonymous, so he used an alias to protect his privacy.

"This allowed me to focus on my work and ensured that the spotlight remained on the innovation and potential of bitcoin rather than the individual behind it," he said.

Defense lawyer Anthony Grabiner said the alliance hadn't produced positive evidence that Wright wasn't Satoshi, and only sought to undermine the authenticity of documents that he has relied on to prove that he's the creator. "It is striking that no one else has credibly claimed the mantle of Satoshi, despite the high-profile nature of Dr. Wright's claim to be Satoshi," Grabiner said. "If Dr. Wright were not Satoshi, the real Satoshi would have been expected to come forward to counter the claim." □

Protests erupt across Haiti as demonstrators demand that the prime minister resign

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Protests shut down major cities in Haiti on Monday as demonstrators clashed with police and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

Banks, schools and government agencies closed in Haiti's northern and southern regions while protesters blocked main routes with blazing fires and paralyzed public transportation, according to local media reports.

In Hinche, a city in Haiti's central region, protesters celebrated the arrival of heavily armed state environmental agents and their commander, Joseph Jean

Baptiste, who demanded that Henry resign. "I want



A protester jumps burning fires during a protest against Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

Ariel to stand in front of my bullets, so they go through him," the commander said as someone filmed him while the crowd cheered. "We're the ones who have the support of the population," he said.

The agents, who belong to the Security Brigade for Protected Areas, have come under government scrutiny following recent clashes with police in northern Haiti. Smaller demonstrations took place in the capital of Port-au-Prince, where dozens of protesters gathered in front of Henry's office before police fired tear gas, dispersing the crowd. Among the protesters was

presidential candidate and former Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who was seen in a video wiping his face as supporters yelled, "We are not stopping!"

At least three days of protests culminating on Wednesday are expected across Haiti, with Feb. 7 considered the supposed deadline for Henry to resign.

The date is significant in Haiti: Feb. 7, 1986 marked the day that former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled for France, and Feb. 7, 1991 marked the day that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically-elected president, was sworn in. □

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A quick history of the Jouvert Morning Parade



(Oranjestad)—Last Saturday around 3am, while most people were probably sound asleep, the streets of San Nicolas came alive for its annual Jouvert Morning Parade, an essential and highly anticipated parade in every annual carnival season, and one that holds a special place in the hearts of locals, especially those living in San Nicolas.

The Jouvert Morning Parade, or just "Jou-

vay", starts in the middle of the night, usually around 3am, and goes on until the break of dawn. Over the years, Jouvay has not only become a staple in the carnival season, but it has also become one of the few parades that hold a significant cultural meaning for the locals, especially those living in San Nicolas. Here is a quick history lesson on the origins of Jouvay and why it is beloved by many on the island.

The tradition of Jouvay, much like the tradition of carnival in general, has its roots in immigration. Immigrants from other Caribbean islands like Trinidad and Tobago brought this tradition to the streets of San Nicolas, where the community living there—mostly comprised of Afro-Caribbean immigrants due to the industrial boom in the district during the early 20th century—held these "jump-up" parties, complete with steel pan and calypso music.

As the story goes, Jouvay was started on St. Maarten street in San Nicolas, with people bringing home-made instruments like pans, buckets, milk tins etc. to play and dance on the street. Nowadays, people also refer to Jouvay as the pajama party parade, as people can just come and join wearing comfortable, regular clothes. Jouvay is the only parade in the carnival season where everyone is welcome to join the march and dance, accompanied by either one or two bands performing Soca music. □

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The Ostrich Farm



Matividiri – One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around



in circles, flapped her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras.

It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

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The Casibari Rock Formation

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba’s famous rock formations

to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that

lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don’t have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □

Experience Unrivaed Excitement and Win Big at LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba

Oranjestad – Get ready to indulge in thrilling gaming experiences and a chance to strike it rich at LIV Casino, nestled within the luxurious Barceló Aruba resort. With a wide array of games and a captivating atmosphere, LIV Casino promises an unforgettable entertainment journey for visitors seeking excitement and good fortune.

LIV Casino boasts an impressive selection of 123 slot machines, each waiting to make someone a lucky winner. Among these, 114 are Dollar machines and 9 are Florin machines cater to various preferences and betting levels, offering a diverse



gaming experience that suits every player's style.

The casino is not just about slots – for those who relish the thrill of traditional table games, LIV Casino delivers on every front. Step up to the challenge at the Blackjack Table, where strategy meets chance, or take a spin at the Roulette Table for an electrifying game of luck. Additionally, the Three Card Poker Table offers a unique blend of strategy and excitement, adding a new dimension to the gaming floor.

Adding to the anticipation, every table at LIV Casino features its own progressive jackpot, promising the potential for monumental winnings that could change a player's life in an instant.

The gaming action at LIV Casino comes alive from 11 AM to 3 AM, ensuring non-stop excitement throughout the day and into the night. For those looking to experience the thrill of table games, the tables are open from 4:30 PM until closing, inviting players to try their hand at a



variety of games while enjoying the vibrant casino ambiance.

"Try your luck with us at LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba," encourages Marc Charley, Casino General Manager of LIV Casino. "We have crafted an environment where guests can immerse themselves in the thrill of gaming and experience the rush of winning big. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, our diverse selection of games caters to all preferences."

LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba stands as a hub of entertainment, where visitors can not only try their luck but also rev-

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About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba:

LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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The lonely hill

Each week, Aruba shares with you through the eyes of Etnia Nativa, an experience way beyond tourist attractions. Ancient island cultural heritage with its own native knowledge that teaches responsibility. The expression of gratitude and appreciation acknowledges a traditional existence on a limited space that once provided a very sustainable living.

In this episode, we share some details concerning the many names given to one of the best-known mountains or hills on the island: none other than Hooiberg, a hill or mound located practically in the middle of the island that can be seen from almost anywhere.

The Hooiberg is a dead volcano. It has been raised up for millions of years and has gone through a yet older lava formation. Its high is 165 m (541 ft.) without being the highest elevation, since the highest elevation is Yamanota, at 188 m (617 ft), located within the Arikok National Park.

Now as for the name, in Dutch the word "hooi" stands for hay and "berg" for mountain, thus Hooiberg means haystack, just as its silhouette suggests a solitary stack of hay. However, it was not always called Hooiberg. Before the Dutch, the Spanish were here and called it "Pan de Azúcar," or Spanish sugar bread. On the other hand, the natives or ancestors who lived here before and for hundreds of generations had their own names to identify that geo-spot when they were returning from the continent in their dugout canoes. Hooiberg wasn't the name by which they knew it.

At this precise point, our story takes yet another turn since those who received the Spaniards were the industrious Caquetio tribe, who settled on the island thousands of years ago. They were ancient farmers and fishermen who traveled from the tropical forests

of South America, colonizing the area of the Caribbean.

The Caquetio tribe exploited an agro-potter economy of Arawak-speaking hunters, fishermen, and farmers who colonized almost all the islands of the Caribbean Sea. They displaced the former Paleolithic people who presided over them; at that time, Aruba was an island that provided abundant hunting and fishing possibilities.

The story goes that for the ancient Caquetios", in their Arawak language, our Hooiberg was called Orcuyo."

These first inhabitants of Aruba were people who had great knowledge that was transmitted from generation to generation, and that is also how many native stories continue to emerge day by day from every corner of this mystical island.

It was these first agro-potter inhabitants who introduced the new agricultural technique of slash-and-burning at "Cunuco" because they were from the tropical continental forest and farming that tecnica successfully. The method known as land clearing for agricultural purposes is associated with the cultivation of roots and tubers such as cassava, yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, plantains, etc. There were also many seeds that could be ground into flour for the production of their main staples, such as arepas, cachapas, ayacas, pan bati, funchi, etc.

Now you know that this small island

Episode CCXLIII - 243



destination has thousands of years of history, culture, and tradition, and a special meaning for the natives, reflected in how we call our island in our local Papiamentu language: "Aruba, nos baranca stima," meaning Aruba, our beloved rock.

Get to know the true native culture and discover the island behind its white-sand beaches and turquoise waters. We firmly believe that by sharing our memories, we maintain the true identity of this small and beautiful place nestled in the Caribbean Sea.

The native people have a mentality of belonging to the natural world in all its forms and expressions.

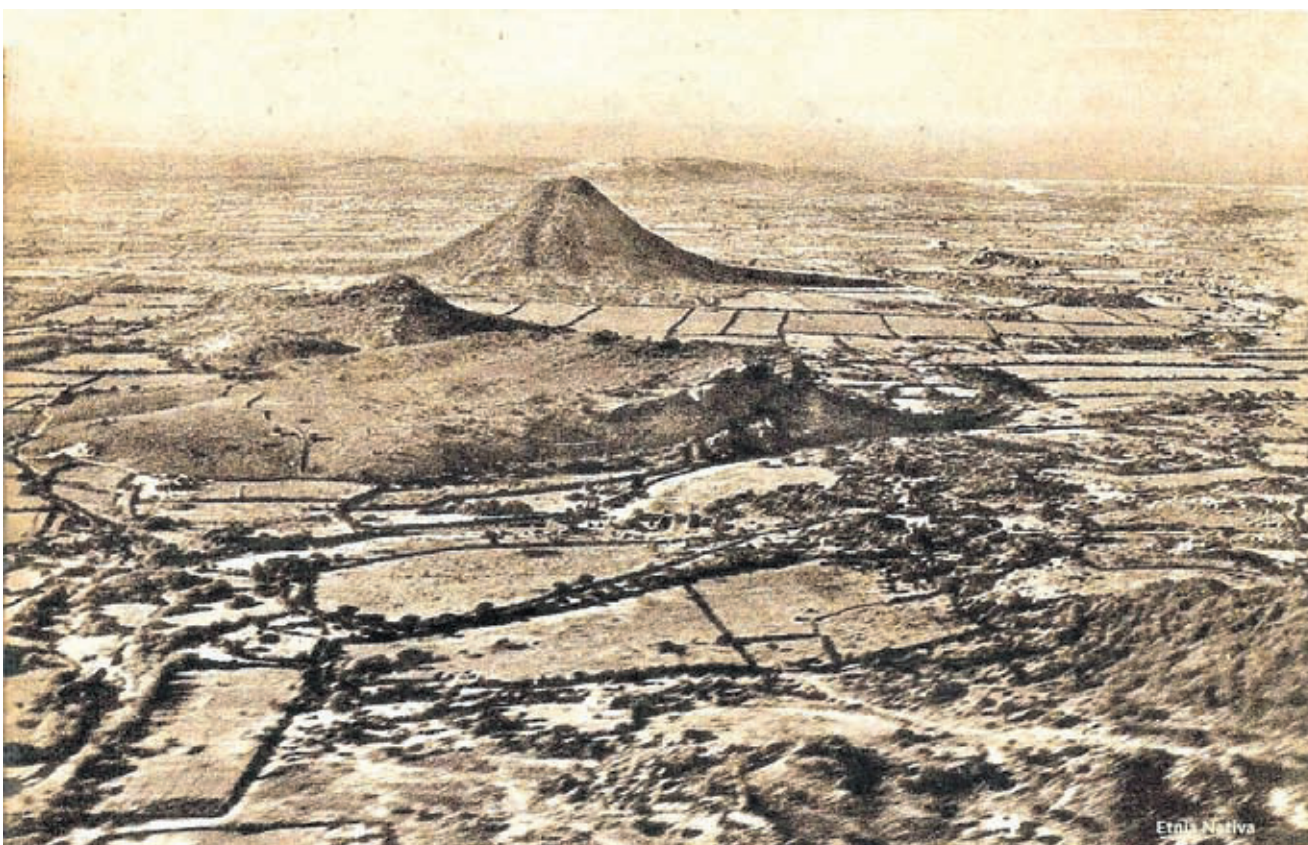
If you are in healthy condition, dare to climb the steps to the top of Hooiberg. From there, the view of the sunrise is simply impressive; it is the most beautiful and peaceful moment from where you will see how each day begins, on "nos baranca stima."

We encourage you to check out the weekly educational online episodes through Island-Insight, the more complete cultural blog of Aruba, and get to know that by getting to know the native feeling, you will love Aruba beyond its beaches. □

Want to connect and know a bit about your travel destination? Geology, history, autochthonous art, people, and the true identity of the island. You should book a visit to Etnia Nativa, a unique native gem!

Let Anthony, our acclaimed cultural columnist, guide and lecture you regarding the most interesting and revealing stories about Aruba. Uncover a native adventure beyond beaches and tourist traps. A magnificent dwelling that integrates reused materials with nature and bursts into culture and island heritage!

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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it

had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in



Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel

Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

CROSSWORD

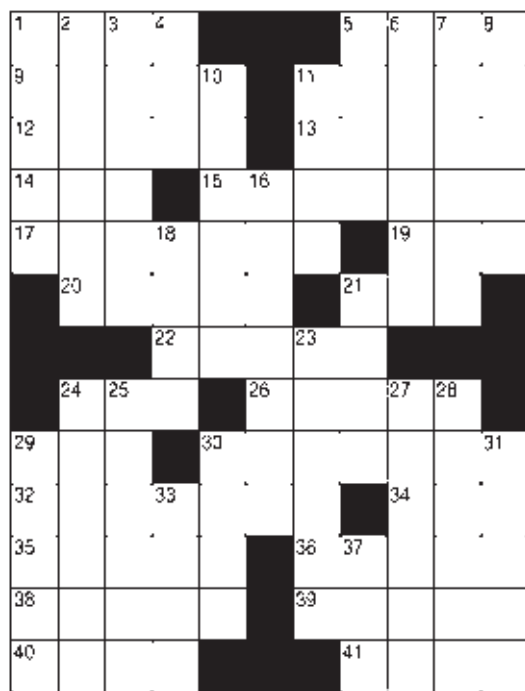
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 "— my case"
1 Word of action
5 Noted seamstress
9 Sharif and Epps
11 Cow-hand's place
12 River vessel
13 Met work
14 Help out
15 Did some scheming
17 Dried by dabbing
19 Method
20 "The Hobbit" dragon
21 Male cat
22 Forge worker
24 Bible boat
26 Impetuous
29 Hearty brew
30 Like some spoons
32 Stopped flowing
34 Unrefined
35 Indian coin
36 Relish tray choice

APEMAN FOAM
SELENA RUBE
SAFETY FIRST
TESLA
ZEUS ORAL
ROMP PASSED
INC MAT CAR
PEEKED BOSS
DEER BUTT
VISOR
BUILT TO LAST
INCA AZALEA
BOER REPEAT

DOWN Yesterday's answer

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6 Ring combo
7 React to a ghost
8 Like an elm grove
10 Nose part
11 Crucifix
16 Like good hand-writing
18 Gofer's work
21 Not this
23 Trampled
24 Charm
25 Resume business
27 Try hard
28 Angel's home
29 Bitter
30 Proofing note
31 Resided
33 Final, for one
37 Fall back



2-7

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

R MUWPE AZLP WDP ARKWZLP MU
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WDZW RK MNBRTK WM AP
RK ITKW ZK MNBRTK WM
PBPSFMEP PJKP. — VDRAZAZEXZ
EIMYR ZXRVDPR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: KEEP YOUR FACE ALWAYS TOWARD THE SUNSHINE — AND SHADOWS WILL FALL BEHIND YOU — WALT WHITMAN

Millennial Money: So you got a raise? Here's what to do with the money



This Wednesday, June 6, 2018, file photo shows U.S. currency in New York.

Associated Press

By CHANELLE BESSETTE of NerdWallet

Whether it's a 5% increase or a 20% bump, a pay raise at work is an opportunity to take charge of your financial priorities. A small raise might not seem like much when it's broken down into a biweekly paycheck, but over time, that difference in income could provide a boost to your lifestyle or be put toward other financial goals. Whether you decide to pay off debt, pad

your safety net, invest, give back, improve your quality of life or treat yourself, a raise is a good time to think about the direction of your financial life.

KEEP AN EYE ON LIFESTYLE CREEP

Many personal finance experts warn against "lifestyle creep," which is when you begin to spend more as you earn more. Lifestyle creep can take the form of buying more conveniences like ordering food in

more often or buying more expensive or higher-quality items, like sturdier hiking boots or a better brand of skin care products.

"If you get a raise and use it to buy a new car or a new home or go out every weekend, your rate of spending might surpass your new income," says Mabel Nuñez, founder of the investing education site Girls on the Money. □



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2 Bed Ocean View \$21,500
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WK 51 Ocean View \$60,000
WK 52 Ocean View \$60,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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Q&A: Nolan and Villeneuve on 'Tenet' returning to theaters and why 'Dune 2' will be shown on film

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

AP Film Writer

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)

— Christopher Nolan has, by any account, had a banner year with "Oppenheimer." But "Tenet" was still on his mind.

The palindromic spy thriller starring John David Washington and Robert Pattinson was released at a tricky time during the pandemic, when many theaters were open internationally but not yet in New York and Los Angeles. And all those IMAX 70mm and 70mm film prints, which proved so immensely popular with audiences for "Oppenheimer," were just sitting around.

"It's a film that was designed, almost more than any I've made, to be enjoyed in this form," Nolan told The Associated Press. "When I heard they were going to be making film prints on 'Dune: Part Two,' I jumped at that and thought what if we opened up the week before? We can dust off the projectors."

Nolan showed one to Warner Bros. film chiefs Pam Abdy and Michael De Luca, and "they got it." Beginning Feb. 23, "Tenet" will be back in theaters, in Nolan's favorite format.

Longtime friends, Nolan and Denis Villeneuve spoke to the AP last week, out-



Denis Villeneuve, left, and Christopher Nolan pose for a portrait on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, in Los Angeles.

side of a sold out showing of the re-release, about "Tenet," "Dune: Part Two," and the sense that, a decade after Kodak almost stopped making film altogether, movie audiences are embracing and rallying around film too.

Below are excerpts from the conversation, which has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: I spoke to people who held off on seeing "Tenet" entirely, holding on to the hope that it would get a proper re-release.

NOLAN: For me, living in Los Angeles, I never got to see it with an audience. It came to streaming first here, so this is a really fun opportunity to get it in front of people the way it was intended. The thing with "Tenet" is, I think of all the films I have made, it's the one that's very much about the experience of watching films. It's about watching spy movies in a way. It tries to build on that experience and take it to this very magnified, slightly crazy place. A lot of that is about sound

and music and this huge image.

More than any film I've made, "Tenet" was designed to have this very theatrical, IMAX, larger than life identity.

AP: "Dune: Part Two" was shot on IMAX digital but will be shown in film. Can you explain how this works?

VILLENEUVE: It was not planned that I would get an IMAX film release. It was a bit like a gift from life, the movie being delayed because of the strikes. Someone came with the idea

to try it. They mentioned this once and then I was like a dog not letting it go. The idea to experiment, and, frankly, Chris will say "cheat" because...

NOLAN: I wasn't going to say that!

VILLENEUVE: But still, I left film a long time ago. Or, I didn't leave film, film left me and my heart was broken.

NOLAN: Film wants you back.

VILLENEUVE: I'm flirting with the idea, Chris Nolan.

I cannot give numbers, but I know that many of the pre-sales for "Dune: Part Two" are in 70mm. There's the notion of an event and that is something people are starving for, they are craving it.

NOLAN: As filmmakers we're competing with incredible home technology. We have to raise our game, but it's great to see a new generation seeing what the difference is. There's an emotional response to it that I think is very hard to quantify. It's hard to justify to the studio sometimes. So it's wonderful when they look at the numbers and they see that they sell more tickets that way, because audiences get something.

VILLENEUVE: The idea to put "Dune" on film didn't come from me, to be honest. It came from Warners. □

The Grateful Dead make Billboard chart history despite disbanding in 1995



The Grateful Dead performs in Oakland, Calif., in 1993. The band has broken the record for the most Top 40 albums to chart on the Billboard 200.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A day

after Taylor Swift made music history at the Grammy Awards, a band formed long before she was born made their own history: The Grateful Dead have broken the record for the most Top 40 albums to chart on the Billboard 200. The Grateful Dead pulled out ahead of Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra with 59 total Top 40 entries on the chart Monday following the No.

25 debut of their archival release "Dave's Picks, Volume 49: Frost Amphitheatre, Stanford U., Palo Alto, CA (4/27/85 & 4/28/85)." Elvis and Sinatra are stuck at 58 albums apiece.

It's a remarkable run, made even more special since the group disbanded following the death of Jerry Garcia in 1995. Forty-one of the band's 59 entries in the Top 40 have happened since 2012, thanks to the popularity of the series of archival albums compiled

by David Lemieux. Lemieux in a statement credited the Dead for recording so many live shows and "the loyalty and passion of the many Dead Heads who have made this record possible." He said it "could be the most unlikely and unexpected record in music history." The record could be further solidified: Another volume in the Dave's Picks series will be released in April, capturing the band's May 1977 shows at the Palladium in New York City. □

Rory McIlroy and Jay Monahan have trust issues in golf's big divide

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) —

The obnoxious money ruining golf was sure to create trust issues with the leadership, and that lingers even as PGA Tour Enterprises is now flush with cash from its new minority investor.

Now it might be a question of who has lost the locker room: Jay Monahan or Rory McIlroy?

How much Monahan has fallen out of favor as commissioner depends on who gets asked. The Associated Press spoke with 22 players during the Hawaii swing and their opinions were as varied as their status on tour.

Most — not all — said the outcome of any deal probably would affect how they felt about Monahan staying in his job.

The first part of the deal — maybe the only part if the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia loses interest — was announced last Wednesday, worth up to \$3 billion. Half of that is geared toward equity ownership for the players.

Still to come are the details. Keep in mind, players are still reeling from Monahan's secret deal with PIF — the financial lifeline of LIV Golf — that was announced June 6 and floored them after so much anti-LIV rhetoric. Word is it even left Jordan Spieth speechless.

That was followed by six months of players feeling they were left in the dark on the negotiations with PIF and private equity groups. "If the deal comes through and people are happy, there will be probably more grace for what happened," Nick Taylor said. "But for what happened (secret negotiations with PIF), it's going to take a lot to forget about that. Maybe not forget, but forgive."

Brian Harman felt Monahan deserved a long rope because of how expertly he guided the PGA Tour in its return from the COVID-19 pandemic. "I have a lot of confidence in Jay. This has been an incredibly difficult hand he's been dealt," Harman said. "I don't envy his



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland reacts on the 14th hole during the third round of the Hero Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024.

Associated Press

position."

Xander Schauffele thinks it's time for new leadership, and he was hopeful the new investor (Strategic Sports Group) would feel the same way.

"They have to show the players change is coming for the better, and not this sort of stale sandwich we've been eating for quite some time," Schauffele said.

McIlroy, for years the loudest critic, is increasingly hard to figure. He is as good a speaker as he is a listener. But his views on LIV have been such a U-turn that Rickie Fowler jokingly referred to him as "pulling a PGA Tour." Double ouch.

McIlroy began to soften his views when Masters champion Jon Rahm — key to European success in the Ryder Cup — bolted to LIV in December. And then to start the year, McIlroy appeared on a popular U.K. soccer podcast and said

he has been too judgmental on players going to LIV, and that he was instrumental in getting PGA Tour leadership to meet with the Saudis. He said he accepted LIV as "part of our sport now."

But it was at Pebble Beach that McIlroy really raised eyebrows.

It's clear he wants the fractured landscape put back together as quickly as possible. That remains the biggest sticking point in any deal with PIF and its governor, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, who has referred to LIV Golf as his "baby."

McIlroy said he sees no reason for defectors to LIV to be punished. If they're eligible for the PGA Tour, they should be allowed to play. "Let them come back," he said.

There remains strong feelings about LIV players taking guaranteed cash, costing the PGA Tour what

amounts to market shares by their absence and then returning. Fowler was diplomatic when he said he was "probably not in the same spot" as McIlroy on the issue.

"Maybe we started in a similar area, but I think there's been a little roller coaster ride on his part," Fowler said. "As far as decisions to go elsewhere and just, 'Welcome back,' I don't think it's a direct road. There has to be something for it."

Adam Scott, the lone international voice among the six players on the PGA Tour board, said he hasn't given deep thought to reunification except the notion of players returning without consequences was "probably not where I'd be starting."

McIlroy left the PGA Tour board in November and Spieth, a former player director, was chosen to replace him. They are not on

the same page on all matters PIF.

Spieth was asked why the tour needs a deal with PIF now that it has a minority investor. "I don't think it's needed. I think the positive (of a PIF deal) would be a unification," he said.

Spieth told Sports Illustrated he called McIlroy last Wednesday, mainly to ask why McIlroy had dropped out of a group text among top players. McIlroy confirmed the hourlong phone call and said while they agree on a lot, he felt PIF with its endless money must be part of any deal if golf is to be pieced back together.

He felt for Spieth to say publicly that PIF was not needed would not have gone down well with the Saudis, who still have unmatched money.

Saudi money is the source of divide. McIlroy sees it as the only way to unify.

Once the strongest critic, he now appears to be in PIF's corner, even as his hope is for the sport to be whole. It's a mess, and odds are it won't be sorted out any time soon even if the tour brings PIF on board in the new enterprise.

"It's no secret that the idea is to try and somehow unify the game," Scott said. "I think I've heard that used a lot over the last seven or eight months. And that was being used when the framework agreement was originally talked about. And I don't know how realistic that really is at the moment."

Monahan was at Pebble Beach and plans to be at every PGA Tour event for the next month or more. That will be important for players like Lucas Glover.

"He has to regain everyone's trust," Glover said. "The outcome ... there's going to be people who hate it and those who like it. I don't see how the PGA Tour benefits outside of money. I don't see how they benefit in any of these situations. Yeah, more money. Does that make it better? Is the tour only about making players more wealthy? I don't know the answer." □



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Jokic and Gilgeous-Alexander ascend to NBA MVP favorites with Embiid sidelined by knee injury

By **PAT GRAHAM**
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — The NBA MVP race just became a little more wide open now that Joel Embiid's chances at a repeat have ended.

The Philadelphia 76ers big man was the odds-on favorite at the midway mark of the season, before the announcement that he would need surgery to repair the lateral meniscus in his left knee. Embiid had surgery Tuesday. The Sixers did not release any kind of timetable on his return. There's still a chance he could return for the postseason — there's just no chance he can extend his MVP reign given the league's new rules on minimum games necessary to be eligible for awards. Nikola Jokic, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Giannis Antetokounmpo slide into the MVP driver's seat.

Jokic, in particular, has the inside track to earn a third MVP title in four seasons for the defending champion Denver Nuggets. Close behind is Gilgeous-Alexander, the rising standout for Okla-

homa City, and never count out the "Greek Freak."

Really, though, this could be the year of the dark horse as someone not named Embiid, Jokic or Antetokounmpo attempts to claim the NBA MVP trophy for the first time since 2017-18. The odds favor Jokic, improving to minus-150 according to FanDuel Sportsbook. Gilgeous-Alexander is at plus-230 and Antetokounmpo, a two-time MVP winner, checks in at plus-650. There are a few long shots to keep an eye on, including Jalen Brunson. His MVP stock continues to rise as the New York Knicks remain near the top of the Eastern Conference despite missing Julius Randle. Don't forget about Kawhi Leonard, either, a catalyst for the resurgent Los Angeles Clippers. Or Dallas standout guard Luka Doncic, who erupted for 73 points on Jan. 26 — the top mark this season (Embiid had 70 four days prior). Or Boston do-everything forward Jayson Tatum. Or even Anthony Edwards, who's at plus-50,000 to win an MVP as he's guided

the Minnesota Timberwolves to a tie for the top spot of the Western Conference with the Thunder.

The misfortune of Embiid has opened the door not only for the MVP race, but criticism about the game-minimum standards that went into effect this season to discourage what's become known as "load management" (resting healthy players). The new collective bargaining agreement requires players, in most instances, to play in 65 regular-season games to be eligible for awards such as MVP or the All-NBA teams. It's a slippery slope.

Embiid hurt his left knee last week in a loss to the Golden State Warriors. But he had already been bothered by knee injuries this season that cost him considerable playing time. He sat out the game in Denver and another in Portland before suffering an injury that requires surgery. "Health is something that we just cannot take for granted," said Monica McNutt, an NBA, WNBA and college basketball analyst for ESPN. "I was



Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) looks to pass around Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

even at the point of like, 'OK, well, if (Embiid) misses MVP, he's already been able to accomplish that.' You just want him healthy in the postseason. ... I mean, our league is at its best when the stars are available and doing what they do best brightly on the biggest stages."

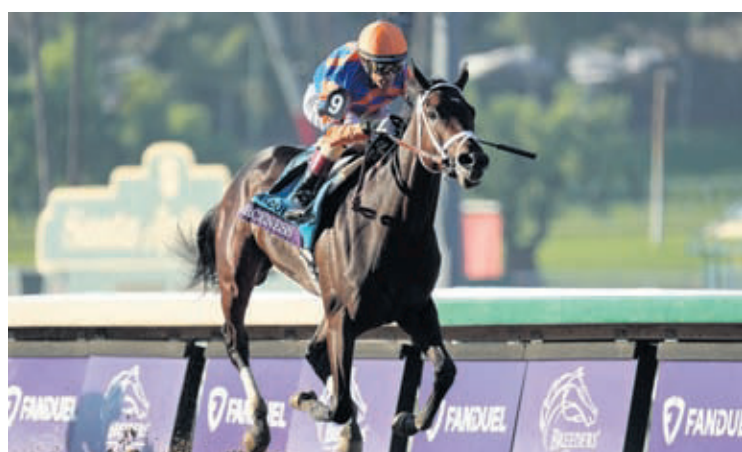
Jokic has been doing that for quite some time, and is soaring again this season in averaging 26.3 points per game, 12.2 rebounds and nine assists. Those are stats right in line with what he posted in his MVP seasons of 2020-21 and '21-22.

"He's the best passer I have ever seen in any position," said Trail Blazers coach

Chauncey Billups, who won a title with the Detroit Pistons in 2004. "He's really unique. There's just nothing like it. He brings the ball up the floor and he just does it all. He puts you in a lot of tough spots defensively."

No argument from Jokic's coach, Michael Malone, who's seen his versatile center record 15 triple-doubles this season. Jokic also was the NBA Finals MVP last season as the Nuggets won their first title.

"Just his ability to be great for himself, but more importantly, his ability to make everyone around him better," Malone said. "That truly is the definition of greatness.□"



John Velazquez rides Fierceness to win the Breeders' Cup Juvenile horse race Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif.

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A total of 346 3-year-olds have been made eligible

to compete in this year's Triple Crown series during the early nomination period.

346 horses nominated to compete in Triple Crown series, but none of Baffert's will run in Derby

Each of the horses was nominated through a \$600 payment to compete in the Kentucky Derby on May 4, Preakness on May 18 and the Belmont Stakes at Saratoga on June 8.

The number of nominated horses was down by 23 from last year's total of 369. They include a record 47 from Japan, 10 more than last year's total of 37.

Fierceness, last year's 2-year-old champion and Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner, was one of 54 horses

trained by Todd Pletcher to be nominated. The colt's owner, Mike Repole, has 20 nominees, which leads all owners. Bob Baffert and Brad Cox have 18 horses nominated each. Baffert's horses are only eligible for the Preakness and Belmont because Churchill Downs Inc. extended his two-year ban to all of 2024.

For the Derby, horses under the care of any suspended trainer may be transferred to another trainer and become eligible to earn Der-

by qualifying points as long as the transfer was done by last week.

The owners of Baffert's horses chose not to transfer their horses out of his care. The last two years his horses ran in the Derby under another trainer, but were not highly placed.

Horses that were not nominated to the Triple Crown series by the early deadline of Jan. 29 can make a late payment of \$6,000 through April 1 to become eligible.□